Termination of Contract

277. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has terminated its contract with a Russian firm for carrying out seismic survey for possible oil reserves in West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and its repercussions ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) According to ONGC, both sides have agreed to discontinue the seismic survey.

Southern Gas Grid

278. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that laying of gas pipeline from Bombay to Cochin in the proposed Southern Gas Grid has been rejected by Government ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) at what stage the projects is pending ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The Report of Inter-Ministerial Group set up to examine the techno-economic feasibility of laying a pipeline from Western Offshore to Southern States is under consideration.

Oil and Gas in Tamil Nadu

279. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the names of places in Tamil Nadu where oil and gas are available and what is the quantity thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : In Tamil Nadu, oil and/or gas have been struck in the Kovil Kalappal, Narimanam, Tirukalar Nannilyam, Adiyakkamangalam, Karaikal, Bhuvanagiri, Tiruvarur and Kamalapuram structures. The inplace geological reserves of these finds as on 1-1-1991 amount to 35.57 MMT of oil oil equivalent of gas. While Narimanam, Adiyakkamangalm and Kamalapuram are already under production, the others are in different stages of reassessment/evaluation/delineation.

Oil Wells of Bombay High

280. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the O.N.G.C. has over exploited the oil wells of Bombay High despite the caution to the contrary sounded by ICRS ; and

(b) what are the reasons for dis-regarding the opinion of ICRS ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) According to ONGS, no Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Licences for LPG Agencies

281. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences for LPG Agencies and retail outlets issued by Government (Statewise) during each of the last three years i.e. in 1989, 1990 and 1991 ;

(b) the number of those being run by persons other than those whom these agencies have been allotted and what action Government have taken in such cases ;

(c) the number of licences for LPG Agencies and retail outlets in each State which are proposed to be issued during the year 1992 ;

(d) what are the criteria fixed by Government for issuing such agencies and

(e) the number of licences for LPG Agencies and retail outlets which have been issued in each State on the recommendations of the Members of Parliament during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a)

	RO	LPG
1989-90 .	304	184
1990-91 .	228	100
Total .	532	284

(b) A few cases of benami transactions of dealerships and distributorships have been reported by the Marketing Oil Companies. While some of them have been terminated after investigation, other cases are at various stages of investigation.

(c) and (d) LPG distributorships and RO dealerships are opened in a phased manner at different locations in the country subject to product availability and economic viability under various Marketing Plans.

(e) Selection of all dealers are carried out as per Industry Guidelines under various categories through approved Selection Boards and also at the discretion of Government.

Conference on Petroleum Sector

282. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent Conference on the Petroleum Sector has suggested gradual deregulation of prices of petroleum and petroleum products ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to implement its recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) In a Conference convened by the Institute of Public Enterprise and "Urja" on February 28, 1992, steps like international parity price for crude, freedom to refineries to purchase crude from any source, fixation of ex-refinery product prices on the basis of international refinery margin with suitable adjustments and determination of product patterns in the refineries by market price etc. were suggested towards deregulation of prices. Changes in the pricing are made by the Government keeping in view costs, growth in demand and socio-economic factors.

Setting up of Petro-Chemical Projects

283. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gas Authority of India Ltd. has proposed to set up two petro chemical projects ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) the present stage of implementation of these Units ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Gas Authority of India Ltd. has proposed to set up a Petro-chemical Complex for the production of Propylene at Bijaipur in M.P. and production of Ethylene and other down-stream products at Auraiya in U.P. The proposal for setting up the Auraiya Petro chemical Complex is under the consideration of Government. In the case of Bijaipur, the technological viability is under examination.

Oil Refinery at Numaligarh in Assam

284. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had decided to set up a fourth Oil Refinery at Numaligarh in Assam ;